

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT:

Proposal to make a technical change to the age range at Punnetts Town Community Primary & Nursery School

1. Background to the proposal

Following updated guidance from the Department for Education on the definition of maintained schools, the Governing Board of Punnetts Town Community Primary & Nursery School needs to change the current business model for its nursery to governor run community provision under Section 27 of the Education Act 2002.

To move to a Section 27 model, the Governing Board needs to make a technical change to the school's age range, increasing it from 2-11 to 4-11. This change does not affect the running of the nursery provision which will continue to be integrated into the school's Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) offer. The nursery will continue to support the local area by offering high quality early education places delivered by experienced and well-trained staff across the Foundation Stage.

Returning the school's age range to 4-11 will streamline operational and financial arrangements while maintaining continuity for families. The proposal represents the most sustainable long-term approach for managing early years provision at the school.

2. Key features of Section 27 governor run community provision

- The early years provision will be overseen by the Governing Board and continue to be led by the headteacher.

- Staff will continue to be employed by the school under school terms and conditions.
- Children are registered on the early years register, not the school roll.
- The provision is inspected as part of the school's overall Ofsted inspection.
- Funding is claimed termly via the Early Years Education Entitlement (EYEE) provider portal.
- Early years staff must hold appropriate qualifications and meet EYFS ratios.

3. What the Proposal Means for children and families

If the proposal is approved:

- Early years provision will continue, delivered through an updated business model.
- Nursery and EYFS provision will remain integrated in practice.
- Reception admissions are unaffected.
- The quality of early education and staffing arrangements will continue to reflect the school's commitment to high-quality early years education.

4. Impact on the school

The proposal is expected to:

- Simplify reporting, governance, and financial management.
- Ensure compliance with updated requirements.
- Enable the Governing Board to maintain high-quality early years provision for the local community.

5. Who we are consulting

The Governing Board would like to hear views from:

- Parents and carers
- School staff
- Local schools and early years providers

- The wider community
- The Local Authority
- Any other interested parties

6. How to respond

You can respond to the consultation by:

- Email: office@punnettstown.e-sussex.sch.uk
- Online survey: [Researching the demand for Early years provision – Fill in form](#)
- Written submissions: Punnetts Town CP and Nursery School, Battle Road, Punnetts Town, Heathfield, East Sussex, TN21 9DE

7. Consultation timeline

- Consultation opens: Monday 8th June 2026
- Consultation closes: Friday 3rd July 2026
- Governing body decision: Wednesday 15th July 2026
- Proposed implementation date: Tuesday 1st September 2026

8. Next Steps

At the end of the consultation period, all feedback will be reviewed. A summary report will be published, and the Governing Board will make a final decision regarding the proposed change.